

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 DODE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /043 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 192
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10487

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR OAU CG AO
SUBJECT: OAU VERIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ZAIRE/ANGOLA BORDER

REF: (A) STATE 211378; (B) LAGOS 9889; (C) LAGOS 9301
(D) LAGOS 9374; (E) KINSHASA 9096

1. WE DO NOT THINK THE STATEMENTS MADE TO US BY MEA OFFICIALS REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF NIGERIA TO THE VERIFICATION COMMISSION HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT. BRONSON DEDE TOLD CHARGE ON AUGUST 8 (REFTEL B) THAT THE FMG HAD UNOFFICIALLY HEARD FROM THE OAU OF ITS NOMINATION TO THE COMMISSION BUT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED. THE STATEMENT BY VICTOR TAYLOR (REFTEL C) TO CHARGE ON JULY 27 THAT NIGERIA HAD NOT YET "RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS COMMISSION" IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH DEDE'S COMMENTS. THE ITALIAN CHARGE LATER TOLD US THAT TAYLOR SAID ON JULY 28 THAT NIGERIA HAD NOT BEEN APPROACHED ON THIS SUBJECT (REFTEL D), BUT TAYLOR MAY WELL HAVE PHRASED THIS TO ARAGONA IN TERMS OF AN OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION.

2. BECAUSE BRONSON DEDE HAS BEEN OUT OF TOWN FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN FROM HIM
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JUST HOW THE FMG LEARNED THROUGH AN OAU SOURCE OF ITS NOMINATION TO THE COMMISSION. WE BELIEVE THE FMG SIMPLY HEARD OF THE PROPOSED NOMINATION AT THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT.

3. AS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A FORMAL INVITATION, WE ASSUME THAT IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING FAIRLY SOON NOW THAT

THE PRESIDENTS OF ANGOLA AND ZAIRE HAVE FINALLY AGREED
ON THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (REFTEL E).

4. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER AS YET THE
DETAILS BEHIND BRONSON DEDE'S REFERENCE IN PARA 2 OF
REFTEL A TO A CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND
COMMISSIONER GARBA REGARDING POSSIBLE AMERICAN
LOGISTICAL SUPPORTY FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE
VERIFICATION COMMISSION. WE SUSPECT HE WAS
REFERRING TO GARBA'S CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY ON
MARCH 21, 1977 BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VERIFY THIS UNTIL
HE RETURNS TO HIS OFFICE, PROBABLY ON AUGUST 28.
WYMAN

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